

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re  
welcome and loved here”**

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# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

† Those who are able, please stand.

**CHIMES**

*When Israel Was In Egypt's Land*

† **GATHERING HYMN:**

*Though The Mountains May Fall*

**WELCOME**

Pastor: Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ where... **(People) no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome and loved here.**

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Elsa Pennewell

Lord, the world is deeply divided and hostile. There are walls and barriers separating children from parents, husbands from wives, brothers from sisters, and believers from believers. Help us break down those walls. Help us to live with love and courage. We long for your kingdom to come, where all things in heaven and earth unite together under the leadership of Jesus. Bring your kingdom. Bring your love. Give us your courage. In Jesus' name, Amen.

† **HYMN**

*I Come With Joy*  
*W&R 706, Verses 1,4,5*

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Pastor: God, you created us in your image. You are three in one. From before time began, you existed in perfect communion. Yet day by day, we choose not to live into your image. We choose division, pointing out others' wrongs, and arguing. Please remind us of our need for one another as we silently confess the errors of our ways to you now...

Siblings, it is the promise of Christ that as we humble ourselves, acknowledging our imperfections and the errors we make, we are forgiven through the blood of Christ, for the sake of Christ, indeed we are forgiven! Amen!

**People: Thanks be to Christ, Amen!**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Elsa Pennewell

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*I Will Trust In The Lord*

**SECOND READING**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Pastor Julia DiFiore

**SERMON:**

Breaking Down Walls

Pastor Julia DiFiore

**BAPTISMAL RITE OF NEW IDENTITY**

Belinda Grace

**†HYMN**

*There is A Balm In Gilead*  
*AAHH - No. 524, verses 1,2*

**JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Upon finishing your prayer request say: **Lord in your mercy.***

*People's response: **Lord hear our prayer.***

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

*please place your offering in the box at the back table at your convenience upon entering or leaving. Or use the QR code on the pew by the envelopes.*

## PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS

### †HYMN

*Amazing Grace*  
*NCH - No. 547, verses 1,2,3*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin)

### †BENEDICTION

Pastor: With the help of God may we...

**People: Go forth into the world in peace and be of good cheer, hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil.**

**Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak and help the afflicted.**

**Honor God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: May it be as you have spoken, in the name of the Holy Trinity-Amen.

### †POSTLUDE

*Guide My Feet*



One License #A720797

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

David McCreary, Carol Carroll, Susan Couch, Bryce C. DeLand, Eric Fandrick, Matthew Pennewell, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

**2/16/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Cilluffo  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Pat O'Connor, Don O'Connor  
READER: Elsa Pennewell  
POWER POINT: Pat O'Connor  
COFFEE HOUR: Pat and Don O'Connor

**2/23/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor  
SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice  
MUSIC: Denise Gregg  
USHERS: Tim Galvin, Karen Galvin  
READER: Barb Fandrick  
POWER POINT: Anthony Currie  
COFFEE HOUR: Don and Nancy Rice

READER 3/3/25 – Nancy Rice

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT**

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, Open and Affirming Congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

**~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

**CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

Please let Pastor Julia know([pastorjuliad@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjuliad@gmail.com)) and she will set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

## **BIBLE STUDY:**

Bible study Wednesdays, at 6 p.m., in Friendship Hall.

## **CHOIR**

Choir practice Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m.

## **TAIZ'E**

Taiz'e February 22nd, at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.

## **MISSIONS**

The Mission team is collecting cans of hearty soups leading up to the Super Bowl and we're calling it "Souper Sundays". There will be a spot for cans of hearty soups to be dropped off. Look for the Detroit Lions banner or poster. The dates are January 26th, February 2nd and 9th. The soup will go to our Little Red Food Pantry.

## **THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY**

**This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.**

The heart light of FEBRUARY  
May take you by surprise.  
You could see the pantry  
Through someone's hungry eyes.

Hungry people are here.  
Sharing food is a start.  
Helping others  
Warms everyone's heart.

FEBRUARY pantry food requests:

Cereal  
Canned Chicken  
Canned Pasta  
(with or without meat)  
Canned Spaghetti Sauce

VALENTINE'S DAY extras:

Holiday Candy  
Dessert Mixes  
(bars, cake cookies, etc.)

Please leave food donations in the elevator room on one of the shelves labeled LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

And please check the expiration date on each food item before leaving it for the pantry.

For questions, please contact Nancy Kennedy (810)329-3790.

**COFFEE HOUR**

There are several Sundays available to host coffee hour. Please be sure to check out the sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Do you have something you would like shared to our social media platforms? For any news, events, or stories you'd like to share with our community, please reach out to our Social Media Minister Karl Heilman in person, message our Facebook page or email him at [kheilman84@yahoo.com](mailto:kheilman84@yahoo.com). Let's continue to spread God's love together! Feel free to like, share, and engage with our content as we strive to connect and uplift one another through the power of social media. Check out our Facebook page at [@First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair](#) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofst.clair](#).